

Message Text

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72

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 AF-04 IO-03 EB-03 SR-02 ORM-01

L-01 INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 CU-02 /047 W

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R 221330Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4448

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2688

LIMDIS

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, SREF, UNRWA

SUBJ: JORDANIAN REPORT ON RECONVENED ARAB LEAGUE
COUNCIL MEETING

1. PRIME MINISTER RIFAI TOLD ME THAT HE HAD A REPORT ON THE FIRST DAY'S EVENTS OF THE ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING. HE NOTED THAT IRAQIS AND SYRIANS HAD ENGAGED IN A DUST-UP OVER EUPHRATES WATER. APPARENTLY, JORDANIAN MININFO SALAH ABU ZAYD,WHO IS IN CHAIR, REPORTED LOTS OF ACRIMONY AND BLAME EXCHANGED ON THIS POINT. RIFAI INDICATED HE WAS WORRIED ABOUT POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION ALONG IRAQI-SYRIAN BORDER AND THAT BOTH SIDES HAD APPARENTLY MOVED TROOPS INTO THE AREA. SAUDIS WERE ATTEMPTING TO URGE SYRIA TO PROVIDE SOME ADDITION WATER TO IRAQ TO ALLEVIATE EXTENSIVE SHORTAGE FOR IRRIGATED AREAS.

2. ON UNRWA FUNDING,RIFAI SAID THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH SAUDIS ABOUT THIS QUESTION DURING KING'S RECENT
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VISIT TO RIYADH. HE HAD GIVEN SALAH ABU ZAYD

INSTRUCTIONS TO GET THROUGH A HELPFUL RESOLUTION
URGING ARAB CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNESCO FOR THE
EDUCATION OF PALESTINIANS. SAUDIS, HE SAID, WERE
POSITIVE AND HE HAD HOPES THAT THE ACTION WOULD GO
FORWARD AS HE HAD EARLIER INDICATED IT WOULD.
PICKERING

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING REPORTS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975AMMAN02688
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750141-0265
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750426/aaaaaydm.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JORDANIAN REPORT ON RECONVENED ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING
TAGS: PFOR, SREF, XF, UNRWA, AL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006